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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

On Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences

Appellant(s):

Edward J. Hogan, et al.

Examiner

Calvin L. Hewitt II

Serial No.

09/809,367

Group Art Unit:

3621

Filed

Mar. 15, 2001

Title

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SECURE PAYMENTS

OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK

REPLY BRIEF ON APPEAL

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Appellant files this paper in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on December 28 2006. Further, Appellant requests an Oral Hearing.

I. Appellant's Response to Section (9) Grounds for Rejection

The Examiner has kindly withdrawn the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-10. However, the Examiner maintains the § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

The Examiner's argument (as summarized in the paragraph straddling pages 3-4,

Examiner's Answer) appears to suggest that the "reusable" nature of applicants' claimed "second payment account number" is not supported in the specification.

However, Appellant resubmits that at least page 3 ¶ [0006] of the specification as filed provides written support for the claimed reusability feature. In particular, the specification at page 3 ¶ [0006] states: "[second payment account number,] which avoids requiring the creation and transmission of a unique repeatedly generated transaction number to replace the transmission of the permanent account number for each conducted transaction." This language provides adequate written support for the claimed notion of permanence and reusability of the second payment account number.

II. Appellant's Response to Section (10) Response to Arguments

The Examiner's position on the § 112, first paragraph, rejection (as stated on page 13, Examiner's Answer) has been addressed above.

The Examiner's position on the § 103(a) rejection (pages 14-15, Examiner's Answer) misinterprets Flintoff. The Examiner correctly notes that Flintoff (i.e., Flintoff Abstract and col. 6 lines 32-64) as showing use of a limited-use or single use [credit card number]. The Examiner,

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however, mistakes Flintoff's "credit card number" to be a "pseudo account number" or the "second payment account number" as recited in the rejected claims 1-10.

Careful reading of Flintoff shows that Flintoff is only concerned only with the so-called "master credit card numbers" or "first payment account numbers," albeit several such first payment account numbers assigned to a plurality of purchasers all funded by a single corporate or family account. (See Flintoff col. 6, lines 39-53). Flintoff does not show, teach, or suggest the use of pseudo, proxy or second account numbers as recited in the claims.

In particular with respect to the rejected claim 1, Flintoff does not show, teach, or suggest a second payment account number useable by a purchaser in transaction processing by the purchaser over a communications network to replace a first payment account number that has been assigned to the [same] purchaser. Further, Flintoff does not show, teach, or suggest such a second payment account number having an encryption key assigned thereto. (See claim 1 elements (a) and (b)).

For this reason also, it is respectfully submitted that a case that the claims of the present invention are obvious has not been established.

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III. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth herein, as well as for the reasons set forth in Appellant's Brief, Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-10.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 28, 2007

Manu J Tejwani

Patent Office Reg. No. 37,952

Attorney for Appellants
Telephone: (212) 408-2614

Baker Botts L.L.P. 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, NY 10112